

Semele martinii (REEVE, 1853) of Southern Brazil and Uruguay

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Semele martini WAS PRESENTED and read by ARTHUR ADAMS to the Zoological Society of London on July 12, 1853, but it was not published in the Proceedings until a year later, in July, 1854 (for 1853: p. 97). Meanwhile, it was cited, described and figured by REEVE as *Amphidesma martinii* in November, 1853 (Conch. Icon., spec. 43, pl. 6, fig. 43). It may be noted that REEVE used two "i"s, whereas ADAMS used one in the trivial name. In spite of the fact that REEVE credited the species to ADAMS and made reference to the presentation by ADAMS in the Society in July, 1853, this species must take authorship of REEVE, according to the Rules of Nomenclature. Since then, this species has not been often noted in the malacological literature. We find only a listing of it by PAETEL (1890: p. 63) and a brief footnote by LAMY (1913: p. 354). LANGE DE MORRETES cited it later in his Addenda (1954: p. 43). He had previously not mentioned this species in his Catalog (1949). It is evident that LANGE DE MORRETES was not acquainted with it. However, the brief original description and the figure are quite adequate, and allow us to identify the species.

Recently, this species was rediscovered and redescribed under the name *Semele aurora* TURSCH & PIERRET (1964: p. 35). The description by these authors coincides with the one by REEVE, and the type locality is the same, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This is a rare offshore species that probably does not reach the beach, which explains the scant knowledge we have about it. *Semele martinii*, restricted apparently to the Rio de Janeiro area, ranges south to off the Rio de la Plata. The Museo Nacional de Historia Natural of Montevideo, Uruguay, has specimens (single valves) from Maldonado Bay and Lobos Island, Uruguay. They are rather eroded, but identifiable. They reach a larger size than the specimens from Rio de Janeiro.

In the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (no. 313078) there is a specimen, left valve, from La Paloma, Depto. Rocha, Uruguay, in the same condition. Length, 56.0 mm; height, 48.2 mm. Also in the collection of the Academy there is a live-taken specimen from Raza Island, off Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 30 fathoms, which measures: length, 40.0 mm; height, 33.6 mm; width, 14.2 mm; the light-brown periostracum is more visible on the anterior and posterior ends. In this specimen it is possible to see the irregular and strong con-

centric folds, often bifurcated, mentioned by REEVE in his original description. These bifurcated folds, among other characters, allow us to separate easily this species from the others recorded from the South American Atlantic coast, namely: *Semele proficua* (PULTENEY, 1799), *S. purpurascens* (GMELIN, 1791), *S. cancellata* (SOWERBY, 1833), *S. (Semelina) nuculoides* (CONRAD, 1841) and *S. casali* DOELLO-JURADO, 1949.

Semele uruguayensis PILSBRY, cited by some authors, is the result of the confusion between *Abra uruguayensis* PILSBRY, 1897 (the types of which are in the ANSP, lot no. 70493), and the species that DOELLO-JURADO recently described. *Semele casali* has, according to its author (1949: p. 1), a range that extends along the Uruguayan coast, south to San Matias Gulf in Argentina. However, in the collection of the ANSP (no. 182030) we found a left valve of this species, in good condition, from Carapegus, State of Espirito Santo, Brazil, which extends its distribution to the north approximately 2500 kilometers.

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